Setting up new power projects in Punjab

3156. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government propose to provide financial and technical expertise to the Punjab Government to set up new power projects to meet the power shortage in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation have mobilized themselves adequately to see that the execution of any viable project under the State Sector is not hampered due to lack of funds. No specific proposal has been received by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from the Government of Punjab for providing technical assistance to set up new power projects.

Jhakri Hydel Project on Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh

3157. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1500 MW Naphtha Jhakri Hydel Project on Sutlej river in Himachal Pradesh is crippled by unexpectedly huge amount of silt coming into its turbines thus forcing its closure for long periods during the peak generating hours;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has led to losses of over Rs. 750 crores since its commissioning in 2003;

(c) if so, whether rapid deglaciation in Sutlej catchments area in China is responsible for the river's unexpected behaviour; and

(d) if so, whether Government have made any investigations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) High silt contents have been experienced during the monsoon season in the last two years in Sutlej river waters. To avoid